

each of the given groups for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The groups are as follows:

- A) Treated subjects afflicted with different diseases: cystic fibrosis, claim 15; chronic bronchitis, claim 16; primary or secondary ciliary dyskinesia, claim 17; pneumonia, claim 18; and sinusitis, claim 19.
- B) Administering step: inhalation, claim 20; transbronchoscopic lavage, claim 21.
- C) The salt or salts employed in the method: potassium nitrate, claim 45; potassium gluconate, claim 46; potassium iodide, claim 47; potassium bromide, claim 48; potassium phosphate, claim 49; and potassium bicarbonate, claim 50.

Applicant elects cystic fibrosis (Claim 15) as the disease of Group A. Claims 1-14 and 20-50 read on this elected species. Applicant elects inhalation (Claim 20) as the administering step of Group B. Claims 1-19 and 22-50 read on this elected species. Applicant elects potassium bicarbonate (Claim 50) as the salt employed in the method of Group C. Claims 1-44 read on the elected species.

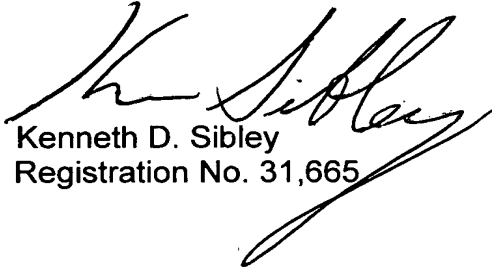
Applicants have also added new Claim 51. Support for new Claim 51 is found in originally presented Claims 15, 20, and 50, among other places in the specification. It is believed that Claim 51 reads on all three of the elected species.

This election of species is made with the understanding that upon the finding of an allowable species, examination will continue with the non-elected species until all species have been examined or a non-allowable species is identified.

In re: R. Boucher
Serial No.: 10/087,355
Filed: March 1, 2002
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Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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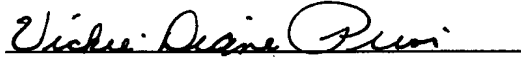


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on October 4, 2002.


Vickie Diane Prior

Date of Signature: October 4, 2002